Cancellation of Payment by IDRC

1286. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minster of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada office in India was established in 1983 under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs;

(b) whether IDRC, South Asia Regional Office, 17-Jorbagh, New Delhi-110003, used to provide grant for the development projects in India;

(c) whether IDRC cancelled the payment of the grant to the project entitled, "CD-ROM of Asian Information of Health and the Environment" funded by IDRC after April 1994; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the grant paid year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada had established its regional office in New Delhi under a Letter of Exchange dated 2nd June, 1983 between IDRC and Department of Economic Affairs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The grant for the CD-ROM Project of Asian Information of Health and the Environment (AHEAD) consortium, then managed by National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM) was received till 1996-97. Thereafter as no further activities could be taken up for the project at NISCOM, the payment of grant by IDRC did not arise. Also in 1999, NISCOM resigned from the AHEAD consortium. The total grant received by NISCOM from IDRC for the 3 years period is given below:

Year	Grant (Rs. in lakh)
1994-95	40.50
1995-96	38.90
1996-97	29.83